Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of compute elements;

a repository comprising compute element characteristics for each of the plurality of compute elements; and

software having at least one operating parameter, wherein based on control logic the software is automatically installed on a target compute element selected from the plurality of compute elements, and wherein the target compute element is selected by comparing the at least one operating parameter with the compute element characteristics of each of the plurality of computer elements.

2. (original) The computer network of claim 1, wherein the plurality of compute elements comprises servers.

3. (original) The computer network of claim 2, wherein the plurality of compute elements comprises a server farm.

4. (original) The computer network of claim 1, wherein the compute element characteristics include processor characteristics, memory characteristics, storage characteristics, peripheral characteristics, networking characteristics, operating system characteristics, security characteristics or service level characteristics.

5. (original) The computer network of claim 1, wherein the at least one operating parameter includes processor requirements, memory requirements, storage requirements, peripheral requirements, networking requirements,

operating system requirements, security requirements, timing requirements, software availability requirements or service level requirements.

6. (original) The computer network of claim 1, wherein the comparing of the at least one operating parameter with the compute element characteristics comprises ranking the compute element suitability to host the software based on a comparison of the at least one operating parameter with at least one of the compute element characteristics for each of the compute elements.

7. (currently amended) The computer network of claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein control logic [[that]] receives the at least one operating parameter and the compute element characteristics to perform said comparing of the at least one operating parameter with the compute element characteristics.

8. (original) The computer network of claim 7, wherein said control logic identifies the target compute element to install the software.

9. (currently amended) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of host computers, including a current computer subset and at least one target computer;

a repository comprising computer characteristics for each of the plurality of host computers; and

software having at least one operating parameter, wherein the software has been automatically reprovisioned from the current computer subset to the at least one target computer in a reprovisioning event,

wherein the reprovisioning event includes <u>selecting the at least one target computer based on</u> comparing the at least one operating parameter with the computer characteristics or a key performance indicator <u>of each of the plurality of host computers</u>.

10. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the plurality of host computers comprises servers.

11. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the plurality of host computers comprises a server farm.

12. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the computer characteristics include processor characteristics, memory characteristics, storage characteristics, peripheral characteristics, networking characteristics, operating system characteristics, security characteristics or service level characteristics.

13. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the at least one operating parameter includes processor requirements, memory requirements, storage requirements, peripheral requirements, networking requirements, operating system requirements, security requirements, timing requirements, software availability requirements, or service level requirements.

14. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the key performance indicator includes annual downtime, average response time, or operating cost rate.

15. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the comparing of the at least one operating parameter with the computer characteristics comprises ranking the host computers suitability to host the software based on a comparison of the at least one operating parameter with at least one of the computer characteristics for each of the host computers.

16. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein the comparing of the at least one operating parameter with the key performance indicator comprises automatically reprovisioning the software when the key performance indicator

falls below a minimum level for the key performance indicator that is set by the operating parameter.

17. (original) The computer network of claim 9, comprising control host logic that receives the at least one operating parameter and the computer characteristics to perform said comparing of the at least one operating parameter with the computer characteristics or the key performance indicator.

18. (original) The computer network of claim 17, wherein said control host logic identifies the target computer to install the software.

19. (original) The computer network of claim 9, wherein said current computer subset comprises one or more of the plurality of host computers.

20. (currently amended) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of host computers, including a first computer and at least one target computer;

a repository comprising computer characteristics for each of the plurality of host computers; and

software having at least one operating parameter,

wherein based on control logic the software is automatically installed on the first computer selected from the plurality of host computers, and wherein the first computer is selected by comparing the at least one operating parameter with the computer characteristics of each of the plurality of host computers; and

wherein the software is automatically reprovisioned from the first computer to the at least one target computer in a reprovisioning event, wherein the reprovisioning event includes comparing the at least one operating parameter with the computer characteristics or a key performance indicator.